Art A Day

CHALLENGE: Flow with Fresco

Washington County Museum of Fine Arts

We challenge you to an art activity each day of the School Closure! If you decide to complete this challenge, share it with us in the comments and on Instagram @WCMFA and use the hashtag #ARTaDayCHALLENGE.

Stuff you’ll need: Read through the challenge to decide…the materials you use are up to you!

Words to know

Movement is the principle of art used to create the impression of action in a work of art.

Fresco is a mural painting technique that involves painting with water-based paint directly onto wet plaster so that the paint becomes an integral part of the plaster (tate.org).

LOOK at this large fresco painting from China. It was made during a time called the Ming Dynasty (between 1368-1644). The figure shows a special figure, Bodhisattva or Buddhist devotional figure. Frescos were paintings on walls, usually found in temples (or places of worship) and other important communal buildings.

Look closely at figure’s face and outstretched arm which is holding a seemingly weightless basket. Allow your eyes to drift over the flowy, large sleeves and flowy clothes. The lines in the fabric, in the sky, and in the background creates the illusion of movement. It appears as if the figure was surrounded by a force of nature, possibly a gust of wind.

THINK about the way wind bends trees, moves leaves, blows your hair around your face, and swirls your clothes around. Imagine you could freeze the moment the wind blows.

MAKE the wind! Find a way to create movement using lines. Create a drawing, painting, photograph, or sculpture that gives the appearance of wind and movement.

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